

# Office of National Drug Control Policy

## Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse

### Detroit, Michigan

#### Profile of Drug Indicators

March 2003



ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff compiled this profile by using the most recent data available from open sources. The data presented are as accurate as the sources from which they were drawn. The information contained in this profile should not be used to rank or compare States or jurisdictions, due to differences in data collection and reporting methods.

## **Detroit, Michigan**

The following profile contains information on demographics, political figures, programs, drug-related funding, crime, drug use, drug trafficking, and enforcement statistics.

### **Demographics<sup>1</sup>**

- Population: 951,270 (2000 Census); 1,027,794 (1990 Census)
- Race/Ethnicity (2000 Census): 10.5% white; 81.2% black/African American; 0.3% American Indian/Alaska Native; 1.0% Asian; 0.2% other race; 2.0% two or more races; 5.0% Hispanic/Latino origin (of any race)
- Detroit is located in Wayne County.

### **Politics**

- Mayor: Kwame Kilpatrick<sup>2</sup>
- City Council Members: Maryann Mahaffey (President), Kenneth Cockrel, Jr., Brenda Scott, Sharon McPhail, Sheila M. Cockrel, Alberta Tinsley-Talabi, Kay Everett, Barbara Rose-Collins, Alonzo W. Bates<sup>3</sup>
- Chief of Police: Jerry Oliver<sup>4</sup>
- Wayne County Sheriff: Warren Evans<sup>5</sup>

### **Programs/Initiatives**

- High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)<sup>6</sup>  
Designated in 1997, the Southeastern Michigan HIDTA is responsible for the following counties: Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, and Wayne. The region is centrally located between Chicago, New York, Toronto, and Montreal, which are all primary urban centers with key roles in the North American drug trade.
- Life Points Outreach Program<sup>7</sup>  
The Community Health Awareness Group established the Life Points Outreach Program on World AIDS Day in 1996. As the first licensed needle exchange program in Detroit, Life Points aims to reduce the spread of HIV among injection drug users and those close to them by providing sterile needles and syringes as well as HIV risk education and counseling in five locations. Life Points also refers injection drug users to drug treatment and works to reduce the number of needles and syringes discarded in public places.

### **Federal Funding**

- Drug-Free Communities Support Program grantees in Detroit:<sup>8</sup>
  - FY 2002: \$99,595 was awarded to Partnership for a Drug-Free Detroit Youth Development Institute
  - FY 2001: no Detroit grantees
  - FY 2000: \$100,000 to the Empowerment Zone
  - FY 1999 and FY 1998: no Detroit grantees
- Executive Office for Weed and Seed<sup>9</sup>  
Northwest Detroit was officially recognized as a Weed and Seed site in July 1996. The areas within the jurisdiction of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> police precincts have been selected as target areas for the site.

- FY 2001 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Discretionary Funds received in Detroit:<sup>10</sup>
  - Center for Mental Health Services:
    - \$398,823 to the Wayne County Human Services Coordinating Body. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
  - Center for Substance Abuse Prevention:
    - \$100,000 to Adult Well-Being Services. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/02.
    - \$269,228 to Neighborhood Service Organization. Project period: 9/30/99-9/29/02.
    - \$249,000 to AIDS Consortium of SE Michigan. Project period: 9/30/99-9/29/02.
    - \$498,104 to the AIDS Consortium of SE Michigan. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
    - \$299,484 to Operation Get Down. Project period: 9/30/99-9/29/02.
    - \$274,065 to Southwest Counseling and Development Services. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
  - Center for Substance Abuse Treatment:
    - \$471,881 to the City of Detroit Health Department. Project period: 9/30/00-9/29/03.
    - \$450,000 to the City of Detroit. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
    - \$600,000 to Neighborhood Services Organization. Project period: 9/30/01-9/29/04.
- There were no Detroit recipients of the FY 2002 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Methamphetamine Grant.<sup>11</sup>
- There were no Detroit recipients of the FY 2002 Office of Justice Programs Drug Court Grant.<sup>12</sup>
- Housing and Urban Development Drug Elimination Grant amount received in Detroit in FY 2001: \$125,000 to the Detroit International Stake Adult Housing Corporation.<sup>13</sup>

### **Crime and Drug-Related Crime**

- Preliminary data indicate that there were 184 murders known to the Detroit police from January to June 2002.<sup>14</sup> During full year 2001, there were 395 murders known to Detroit police.<sup>15</sup>

Number of Index Offenses Known to Police, Detroit, 2001-June 2002

Offense	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	395	184
Forcible rape	652	244
Robbery	7,096	2,801
Aggravated assault	12,804	5,866
Burglary	15,096	6,555
Larceny-theft	29,613	13,166
Motor vehicle theft	24,537	11,535
Arson	1,634	not available

- The Detroit Police Department reported 7,540 arrests for drug law violations during 2001.<sup>16</sup> In 2000, 9,301 drug arrests were reported in Detroit.<sup>17</sup>

#### Number of Substance-Related Arrests, Detroit, 2000-2001

Offense	2000	2001
Drug law violations	9,301	7,540
DUI of alcohol/narcotics	2,142	1,908
Liquor law violations	151	60

- During 2001, there were 11,412 drug arrests in Wayne County.<sup>18</sup>

#### Number of Drug Arrests, Wayne County, 1997-2001

Year	Juvenile	Adult	Total
1997	444	12,777	13,221
1998	450	14,268	14,718
1999	305	13,417	13,722
2000	275	12,987	13,262
2001	310	11,102	11,412

- During 2001, approximately 64% of adult male arrestees in Detroit tested positive for drugs at arrest.<sup>19</sup>

#### Percent of Adult Male Arrestees Positive for Drugs, Detroit, 2001

Drug Type	Percent Positive
Cocaine	22.2%
Opiates	7.2
Marijuana	47.8
Methamphetamine	0.0
PCP	0.0
Any of the above drugs	64.1
Multiple drugs	11.2

- Approximately 15% of Detroit adult male arrestees reported using crack cocaine within the past month. Among the arrestees reporting past month crack cocaine use, they used the substance an average of 9.5 days within the month.<sup>20</sup>

#### Past Drug Use Among Adult Male Arrestees, Detroit, 2001

Use	Crack Cocaine	Powder Cocaine	Marij.	Meth.	Opiates
Past 7 days	12.5%	1.9%	41.5%	0.0%	3.5%
Past 30 days	14.5%	3.5%	48.5%	0.2%	4.2%
Past year	16.0%	5.4%	55.6%	0.3%	5.0%
Avg. # of days used in month	9.5	4.8	10.9	3.9	11.8

- In 1999, 61.8% of adult male and 45.5% of adult female arrestees in Detroit who had committed a violent offense tested positive for drugs.<sup>21</sup>

Percent of Adult Arrestees Testing Positive for Drugs, by Offense, Detroit, 1999

Type of Offense	<u>Cocaine</u>		<u>Marijuana</u>		<u>Any Drug</u>	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Violent	20.3	9.1	51.4	36.4	61.8	45.5
Property	34.1	41.7	43.1	37.5	66.8	75.0
Drug	31.5	71.4	61.5	14.3	81.8	85.7
Sales	0.0	--*	66.7	--*	66.7	--*
Possession	32.1	71.4	61.4	14.3	82.1	85.7
Prostitution	50.0	100.0	100.0	0	100.0	100.0
Other	27.0	55.0	41.1	10.0	59.6	60.0
Total	27.0	45.9	47.9	26.2	65.3	68.9

\* Females who committed drug sales offenses were not tested

## Drugs

- In exchange for drugs, some people (“hitters”) inject other users who have hard to find veins.<sup>22</sup>
- Cocaine  
Detroit officials report that crack cocaine is the most widely used illicit drug in the city.<sup>23</sup> Crack rocks typically cost \$10-\$20, with \$10 being the most common unit price in Detroit neighborhoods.<sup>24</sup> The price for a gram of powder cocaine ranges between \$75 and \$125.<sup>25</sup>
- Heroin  
Nearly all of the heroin available in Detroit/Wayne County is white in color and originates in Colombia.<sup>26</sup> However, the availability of Southeast and Southwest Asian heroin is increasing.<sup>27</sup> Packets of heroin are most often sold in \$10 units and bundles of ten hits cost between \$75-\$125.<sup>28</sup> One gram of Colombian heroin typically costs \$100-\$150. Most of the Detroit heroin users are over the age of 30 and reside in the central city. Heroin is increasingly being used as a substitute for OxyContin.<sup>29</sup> Quinine is a new heroin adulterant that is used to increase the heroin “rush.”<sup>30</sup>
- Marijuana  
Mexican marijuana is the most common form found in Detroit/Wayne County.<sup>31</sup> The Mexican commercial-grade marijuana ranges in potency from 1-5% tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and costs \$150-\$200 per ounce.<sup>32</sup> One gram of marijuana costs approximately \$10. Marijuana plants are increasingly being started indoors and are then moved outdoors.<sup>33</sup> A marijuana joint in Detroit costs \$2-\$6.<sup>34</sup>
- Methamphetamine  
Methamphetamine is reported as an emerging/intensifying problem in Detroit and the number of small meth labs has increased in the area. A gram of meth costs \$100.<sup>35</sup> An ounce of methamphetamine sells for \$500-\$2,000 with a purity range of 20-25%. Methamphetamine labs run by large operations in Mexico and California produce some of the meth available in Detroit. Most meth users are male but the number of female users has increased.<sup>36</sup>

- **Club Drugs**  
Rohypnol is “somewhat available” in Detroit. Liquid GHB is frequently packaged in plastic bottles. The liquid form of ketamine is injected and is sometimes mixed with marijuana.<sup>37</sup> The price for an MDMA pill in Detroit ranges from \$20 to \$30.<sup>38</sup>
- **Other Drugs**  
Codeine and its prescription compounds remain the most widely abused substances in the “other opiates” category. Increases in abuse have been noted for hydrocodone (Vicodin, Lortab, or Lorcet), carisoprodal (Soma), and oxycodone (OxyContin).<sup>39</sup> Some patients with legitimate prescriptions for OxyContin fill the prescription and then sell some of the pills.<sup>40</sup> OxyContin typically sells for \$1-\$1.50/milligram in Detroit. The predominant route of OxyContin administration in Detroit is snorting.<sup>41</sup>

### Juveniles

- Approximately twenty percent of Detroit high school students surveyed in 2001 reported being current users of marijuana.<sup>42</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Gender, Detroit, 2001

	Female	Male	Total
Lifetime marijuana use	39.6%	41.1%	40.5%
Current marijuana use	19.6	19.1	19.5
Lifetime cocaine use	1.8	5.0	3.3
Current cocaine use	1.2	3.2	2.2
Lifetime inhalant use	5.0	8.1	6.5
Current inhalant use	2.5	3.0	2.8
Lifetime heroin use	1.8	6.5	4.0
Lifetime methamphetamine use	2.7	7.2	4.8
Lifetime illegal steroid use	2.4	7.3	4.7
Lifetime injecting illegal drug use	1.2	3.7	2.4

- Over forty-four percent of Detroit 12th graders reported using marijuana at least once during their lifetimes.<sup>43</sup>

Percent of High School Students Reporting Drug Use, by Grade, Detroit, 2001

	9th	10th	11th	12th
Lifetime marijuana use	37.4%	39.6%	43.4%	44.6%
Current marijuana use	17.3	18.2	24.0	21.3
Lifetime cocaine use	2.9	2.9	3.9	4.0
Current cocaine use	2.2	1.9	1.8	2.7
Lifetime inhalant use	5.3	6.0	6.2	7.6
Current inhalant use	3.3	2.4	1.5	3.3
Lifetime heroin use	4.5	2.2	4.0	5.2
Lifetime methamphetamine use	4.9	3.6	5.0	5.8
Lifetime steroid use	4.4	3.6	5.0	5.2
Lifetime injection of illegal drug	2.2	2.0	2.3	2.6
Used marijuana before age 13	14.2	11.7	12.9	10.7

- Approximately 6% of Detroit high school students reported using marijuana on school property within the past month.<sup>44</sup>

### **Enforcement**

- Southeastern Michigan HIDTA Initiatives:<sup>45</sup>
  - Detroit Metropolitan Airport Group: Members of this team investigate and arrest individuals trafficking drugs through the Detroit Airport.
  - Parcel Interdiction Team: This team investigates and arrests individuals who traffic drugs through the various parcel delivery services.
  - Conspiracy One Task Force: Task force members from the Detroit Police Department and the FBI conduct long-term investigations targeting regional, national, and international cocaine trafficking organizations.
  - Other HIDTA initiatives found in Detroit include the following: Detroit Police Department Violent Crimes Task Force, Southeastern Michigan Forensic Enhancement Initiative, and REDRUM Task Force.
- A methamphetamine task force was recently formed in Detroit.<sup>46</sup>
- As of October 31, 2001, there were 4,850 full time law enforcement employees working in Detroit.<sup>47</sup>

### **Trafficking and Seizures**

- The Detroit Metropolitan Airport is a major smuggling route for drugs.<sup>48</sup>
- Detroit gangs control a number of distribution points and are major cocaine suppliers to many markets.<sup>49</sup>
- Some Detroit cocaine traffickers are now dealing with smaller quantities due to the implementation of harsher sentences for trafficking larger amounts of the drug.<sup>50</sup>
- The Detroit metropolitan area has emerged as a transshipment point for bulk quantities of pseudoephedrine, a chemical used to manufacture methamphetamine. The Detroit-Windsor border serves as an entry point for a major pseudoephedrine smuggling route.<sup>51</sup>
- The majority of marijuana seized in Detroit originates in Mexico.<sup>52</sup>
- In July 2001, the DEA arrested three individuals who were on their way to suburban Detroit from California with 21,600 vials of ketamine in liquid form, weighing more than 2,100 pounds.<sup>53</sup>
- The number of small, local methamphetamine labs seized in the Detroit increased during 2001.<sup>54</sup>

### **Courts**

- Drug Courts<sup>55</sup>

As of January 8, 2003, there was one drug court in Detroit that has been operating for over two years and one drug court that has recently been implemented. There are no additional drug courts being planned in Detroit.

### **Consequences of Use**

- Preliminary estimates indicate that there were 8,482 drug-related episodes reported by emergency departments (ED) in Detroit from January to June 2002.<sup>56</sup>

- During full year 2001, there were 19,265 drug-related ED episodes.<sup>57</sup>

Number of ED Drug Mentions, Selected Drugs, Detroit, 1998-June 2002

Drug Type	Full Year 1998	Full Year 1999	Full Year 2000	Full Year 2001	Jan.-June 2002
Alcohol-in-comb.	7,992	7,199	8,447	9,109	3,904
Cocaine	8,617	7,699	7,870	7,730	2,820
Heroin	2,879	2,653	3,328	3,870	1,440
Marijuana	4,335	4,100	4,344	5,017	2,695
Amphetamines	362	178	--	437	227
Methamphetamine				--	--
MDMA (Ecstasy)	6	40	60	111	--
Ketamine	--	--	1	12	0
LSD	27	63	--	15	0
PCP	20	24	21	38	--
Misc. hallucinogens	11	16	5	10	--
Rohypnol				0	1
GHB	11	45	22	31	--
Inhalants	28	51	17	11	--
Total drug episodes	17,477	16,125	17,042	19,265	8,482
Total drug mentions	32,582	30,207	32,740	37,164	16,713

- During 2001, there were 446 drug-related deaths reported by Medical Examiners (ME) in Wayne County. Cocaine was mentioned in 195 of the deaths.<sup>58</sup>

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Wayne County, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	92	111	122	154	135
Cocaine	174	186	169	194	195
Heroin/morphine	145	148	127	179	193
Marijuana	--	--	--	--	--
Amphetamines	--	--	--	1	--
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	--	3
Club drugs	--	1	1	2	1
Hallucinogens	--	1	--	--	--
Inhalants	3	--	1	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	127	150	169	152	188
Other analgesics	11	9	13	17	4
Benzodiazepines	77	81	73	88	94
Antidepressants	69	103	95	86	97
All other substances	304	294	363	299	267
Total drug deaths	364	412	412	402	446
Total drug mentions	1,002	1,084	1,133	1,172	1,177



- During 2001, there were 729 drug abuse deaths reported by ME in the Detroit metropolitan area (includes Wayne County and surrounding areas).<sup>59</sup>

Number of Drug Abuse Deaths and Drug Mentions, Detroit Metro. Area, 1997-2001

Drug Type	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Alcohol-in-combination	172	193	214	276	238
Cocaine	231	269	275	303	301
Heroin/morphine	213	211	221	296	285
Marijuana	90	50	93	98	74
Amphetamines	--	2	3	8	5
Methamphetamine	--	--	--	2	5
Club drugs	--	1	2	5	5
Hallucinogens	--	2	1	--	1
Inhalants	3	1	1	--	--
Narcotic analgesics	206	245	284	298	354
Other analgesics	37	41	38	42	35
Benzodiazepines	135	147	177	189	193
Antidepressants	104	137	131	138	148
All other substances	337	338	402	348	318
Total drug deaths	585	635	695	704	729
Total drug mentions	1,528	1,637	1,842	2,003	1,962

- From 1999-2001, the Child Death Review Panel for Wayne County noted finding seven hospitalizations of young children due to accidental methadone ingestion.<sup>60</sup>
- As of July 2001, 55% of Michigan's total AIDS cases originated in Detroit/Wayne County. Injection drug use accounted for approximately 30% of the AIDS cases.<sup>61</sup>

### Treatment

- During FY 2001, heroin was the primary drug reported in 4,461 of the total admissions to State-funded treatment programs in Detroit/Wayne County, representing 34% of the total admissions.<sup>62</sup>

Number of Admissions to Treatment, Detroit/Wayne County, FY 2001

Drug Type	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary
Heroin	4,461	519	290
Cocaine	3,678	3,001	751
Marijuana	985	1,579	1,240
Other opiates	131	NR	NR
Stimulants	11	NR	NR

- Crack cocaine users continue to outnumber cocaine powder users entering treatment in Detroit/Wayne County, accounting for 94% of the primary cocaine admissions.<sup>63</sup>
- Approximately 8% (8.2%) of adult male arrestees in Detroit in 2001 reported that they have received treatment in the year before being arrested.<sup>64</sup>

## Sources

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